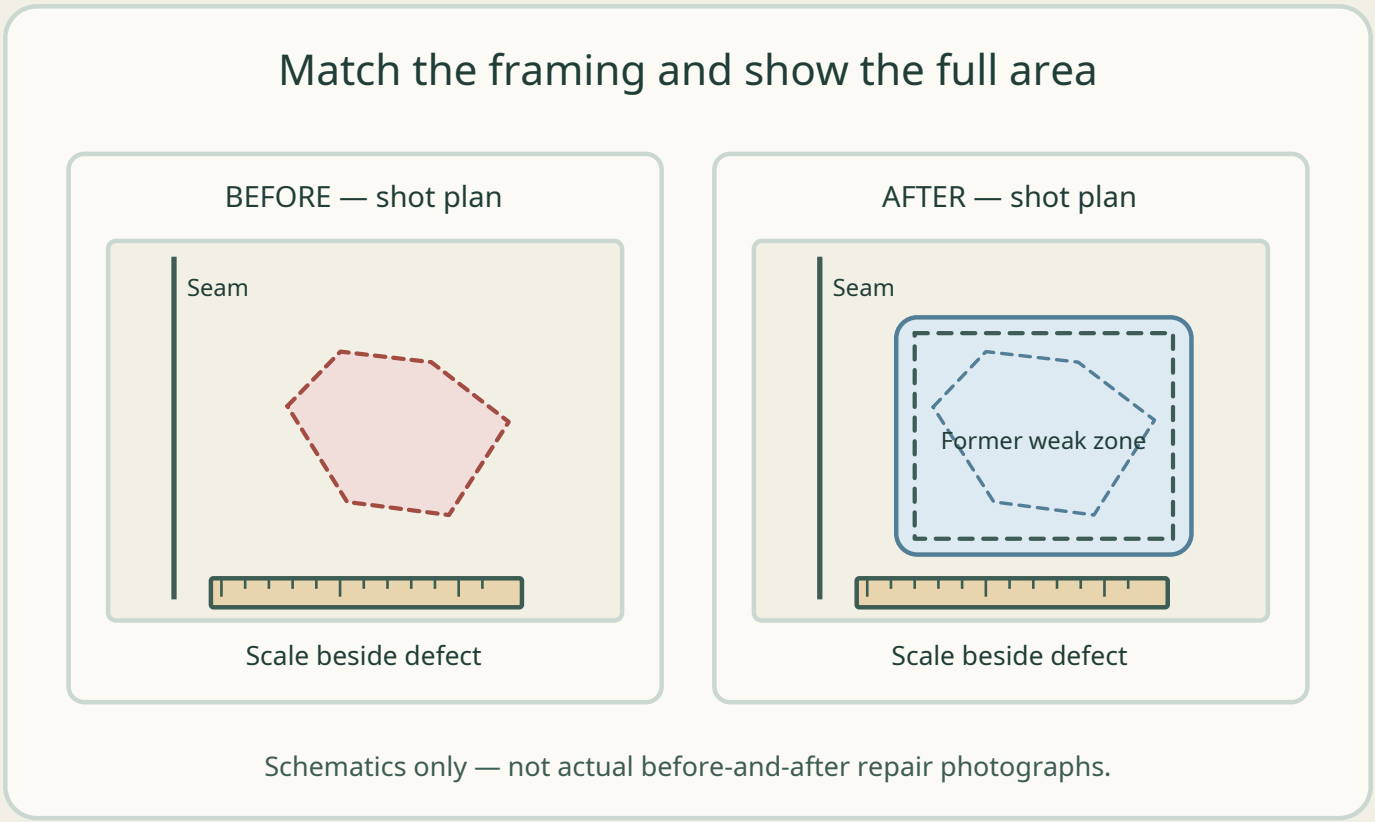
STEADLEAF PRESS

MEND / VISIBLE MENDING & DECORATIVE REPAIRS

Photograph Before-and-After Repairs Without Hiding Weaknesses



Create a comparable, honest photographic record of a textile repair, showing the full weak area, both faces, scale and remaining limitations.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

A repair photograph can help a reader understand what changed and what still needs attention. It is not evidence of strength, washing performance or invisible restoration. This guide is for documenting ordinary textile repairs, not for certifying technical garments, evaluating hazardous contamination or publishing someone else’s private belongings without permission. Avoid identifiable faces, addresses, documents and labels containing private information. Never stretch, cut or pose a damaged item in a way that conceals or worsens the defect.

Materials

Camera or phone, clean plain background, diffuse light, ruler with visible units, neutral matte reference card, stable camera position or stand, paper photo log, and the item off the body. Use the same orientation, distance and exposure conditions where practical. Preserve unedited original files; prepare clearly labelled copies for sharing.

Plan the repair

Create a paired shot list before starting a repair: full-item context, face close-up with scale, reverse close-up, and an oblique view if bulk or edge lift is relevant. Photograph the whole weak area before repairing, not just the visible hole. Use the same named reference, orientation, approximate framing and diffuse lighting after repair; place the ruler beside the fabric in the same plane without obscuring it. If a before image was missed, say so and do not stage or generate one. Log remaining damage, altered texture, added material and uncertainty. Any cropped or exposure-adjusted presentation copy must not hide relevant evidence, and original files remain separate.

Steps 1–2

1. Identify the item and purpose

Give the item a non-identifying record ID. Note whether the images are private notes or intended for publication. Obtain permission for property or images that are not yours.

2. Prepare a neutral background

Lay the item relaxed and off the body. Use an uncluttered matte surface and diffuse light. Remove nearby private documents, labels or reflections before taking the photograph.

Steps 3–4

3. Establish the scale and orientation

Choose a named landmark such as a seam and a direction arrow on paper. Put a ruler alongside the defect in the same plane, showing units without covering the weak cloth.

4. Take the before overview

Photograph the entire item or relevant whole panel so the repair location can be identified. Keep the garment shape visible; do not arrange folds to hide other damage.

Steps 5–6

5. Photograph the complete weak zone

Use a straight-on close-up with the scale, including all visibly thinned fabric and torn edges. Record any inaccessible or unclear area rather than guessing.

6. Record the reverse and profile

Photograph the wrong side and, if helpful, a shallow oblique view showing original folds, previous patches or texture. Do not turn or manipulate fragile material merely to obtain a shot.

Steps 7–8

7. Log the setup

Record camera position, approximate distance, orientation, lighting, scale and file identifiers. Keep original files in a named record folder. Do not label a later photo as before.

8. Complete the suitable repair separately

Follow the selected repair method. Record actual material, stitch route and any changes to the plan. If a repair remains incomplete, identify the stage honestly.

Steps 9–10

9. Recreate the framing

Return the item to the same relaxed orientation, background, lighting and scale position. Match viewpoint and approximate distance without forcing the fabric to resemble the earlier image.

10. Take the after set

Capture comparable overview, close-up and reverse images. Include an oblique view of any new bulk or edge lift. Show the same entire affected area even if the visible hole has disappeared.

Steps 11–12

11. Show remaining concerns

Take additional images of residual thinning, visible joins, gathering, mismatch or an unresolved edge. Do not crop these out of the main comparison; label detail shots separately.

12. Prepare honest presentation copies

Use side-by-side images at comparable scale, labelled BEFORE and AFTER with dates or sequence. If you crop or adjust exposure, disclose it and retain the originals. Never retouch, clone, use generative filling or create a fictional before/after as evidence.

Steps 13–14

13. Check privacy and captions

Remove unnecessary identifying details from shared copies using clearly disclosed redaction if needed; retain private originals securely. If metadata contains sensitive location, remove it from the public copy. Do not erase repair evidence under the guise of privacy.

14. Record the actual limitations

Describe what was observed, what remained uncertain and whether later ordinary care was observed. No photograph certifies repair strength. If no before photo exists, explicitly label the available image as after only.

Fix, care and preserve

The after photo looks better because of lighting

Retake comparable images in diffuse light if possible. Disclose unavoidable differences; do not use selective filters to exaggerate improvement.

The original hole is no longer visible

Show the complete original weak zone and reverse. State the actual repair method and any visible residual issue, not a strength claim.

A before photo is missing

Label the record after only. Do not damage the item again or generate a fabricated earlier state.

Private details appear in the image

Use an appropriately redacted sharing copy and disclose redaction. Preserve the original privately; if redaction hides repair evidence, take a new properly framed image instead.

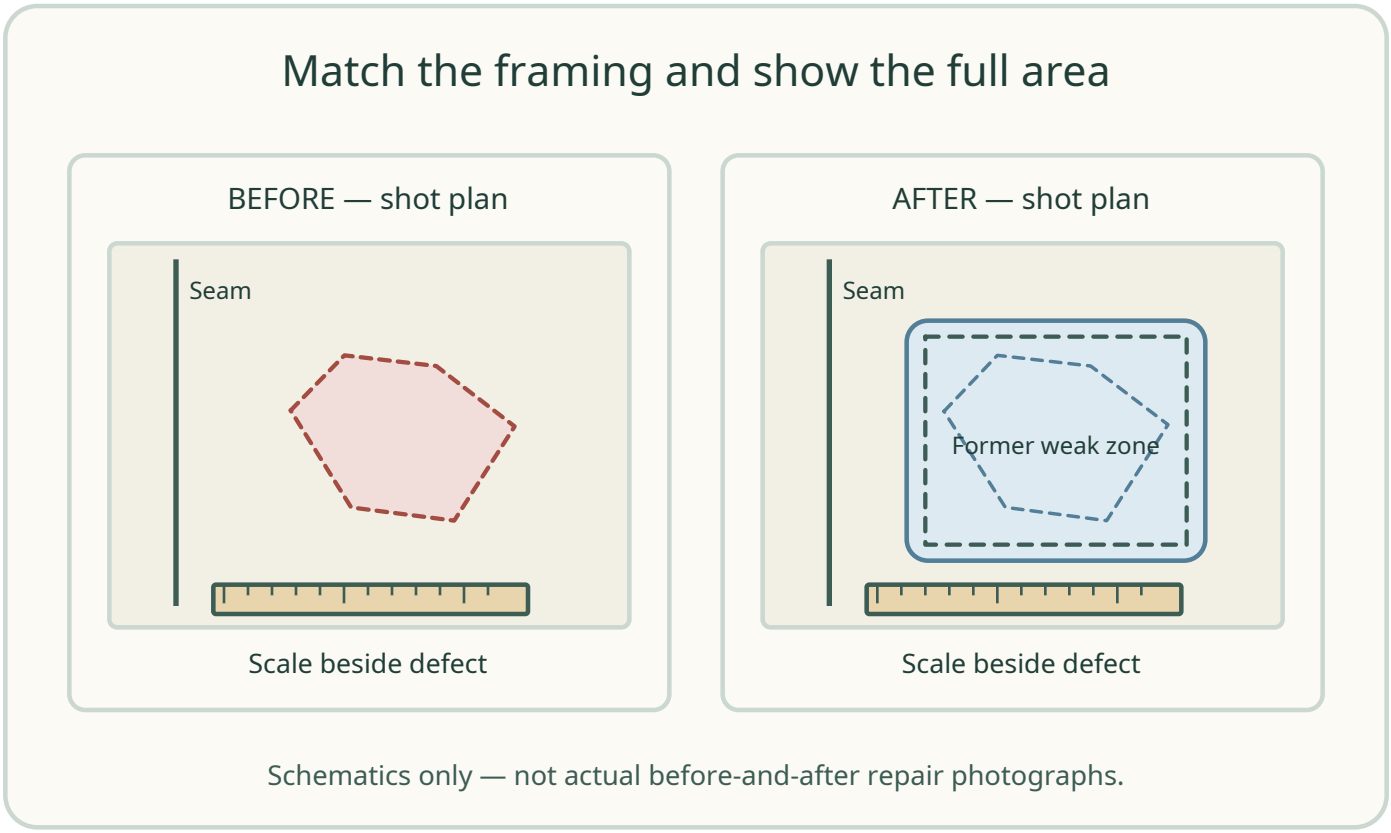
Originality and evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, design, diagrams and records. Follow the actual item, textile and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing, flame-resistance or compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Ordinary adult garments and non-technical household textiles only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Schematics are illustrative, not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

Honest matched-pair documentation diagram: BEFORE and AFTER placeholders at identical frame scale, named reference seam, ruler beside the weak zone and complete defect/patch area. These drawings are shot-planning schematics, not actual repair photographs or evidence.



Pattern 2

Honest documentation checklist: full context, matching face close-up and scale, reverse and profile, remaining concerns, originals retained, actual dates, disclosed edits and privacy review. Provide fields for missing views and limits. Never fabricate a before or after image.

Honest documentation checklist

- [ ] Whole item / named repair location
- [ ] Matched face close-up and ruler
- [ ] Reverse and profile where accessible
- [ ] Residual weakness / bulk / colour mismatch
- [ ] Original files retained; edits disclosed
- [ ] Dates and actual repair stage recorded
- [ ] Permission, identifying details and metadata
- [ ] Missing views / limitations explicitly noted

Missing views / limits: _____

Do not create, retouch or stage a fictional before/after as evidence.

Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Item record ID / permission

Before context / file name

Before face / ruler / full weak zone

Reverse / profile / missing views

Camera position / light / landmarks

Repair actually performed

Planned matching after frames

Privacy and sharing decision

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

After context / face file names

After reverse / profile file names

Remaining concerns shown?

Scale / lighting differences

Originals retained / edits disclosed?

Privacy / metadata check

Actual observations and limits

Date / follow-up